

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05
IGA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /086 W
-----111346 301331Z /46

R 300858Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5005
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASDC
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS
SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

1. SUMMARY: ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR WAKU CALLED UPON ME AUGUST 29, OBVIOUSLY ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FRM HIS GOVERNMENT. HE QUESTIONED U.S. INTENTIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD, AND BROACHED IDEA OF NEW NEGOTIATING FORUM FOR CHADIAN/LIBYAN DISPUTE.

2. AMBASSADOR WAKU STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU REGARDING THE SITUATIONIN CHAD, AND THAT ZAIRE WAS CONFUSED AS TO JUST WHAT ROLE THE U.S. PLANNED TO PLAY IN CHAD. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER WE INTENDED TO GIVE CHAD MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS WE HAD EARLIER INDICATED AND, IF SO, WHETHER THIS WOULD

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BE DONE THROUGH THE TRANSFER OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. I RESPONDED THAT WE WERE COMMITTED TO HELPING CHAD BUT FOUND THAT THE LEGAL PROCEDURES FOR DOING SO WERE LENGTHY AND CUMBERSOME. I ADDED THAT WHILE SUCH DELAYS WERE AT TIMES ANNOYING, THEY WERE A PART OF OUR SYSTEM AND WERE FAR SUPERIOR TO ARBITRARY EXECUTIVE ACTION. I POINTED OUT WE COULD NOT APPROVE

TRANSFER OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES UNTIL
A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION HAD BEEN MADE AND
PUT BEFORE CONGRESS. WHEN SUCH PROCEDURE WAS COMPLETED,
TXAE TRANSFER FROM THIRD COUNTRIES OR THE PURCHASE BY
THIRD COUNTRIES ON CHC'S BEHALF WOULD BE THE MOST
EXPEDITIOUS WAYS OF ASSISTING CHAD.

3. AMBASSADOR WAKU THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS
GOVERNMENT DOUBTED IF ANY OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS
OF THE LIBYAN/CHADIAN DISPUTE WOULD BEAR FRUIT AND IT THOUGHT
AN ENTIRELEY NEW APPROACH WAS CALLED FOR. HE ADDED THAT A
MILITARY SOLUTION IN CHAD'S FAVOR WAS ALSO IMPROBABLE AND
THAT WHILE CHAD, IF GIVEN SUPPORT, MIGHT WELL RETAKE
VARIOUS TOWNS IN HE NORTH, THIS WOULD NOT RESOLVE
THE OVERALL SITUATION AS LONG AS LIBYA ACTIVELY SUPPORTED
THE REBELS. IN SPEAKING OF A NEW DIPLOMATIC APPROACH/ HE
SUGGESTED A NEGOTIATING EFFORT HEADED BY AN ARAB CHIEF
OF STATE TO WHOM QADHAFI MIGHT LISTEN, AND MENTIONED
BOUMEDIENE AS A POSSIBILITY. HE ASKED ME TO REFLECT UPON
THE SUGGESTION OF A NEW DIPLOMATIC APPROACH AND TO GET
BACK TO HIM ON THE SUBJECT AT A LATER DATE. I WOULD BE
INTERESTED IF SIMILAR APPROACHES WERE BEING MADE ELSEWHERE.

4. COMMENT: ZAIRIAN CONFUSION OVER OUR INTENTIONS
IS COMMON REACTION TO THE SLOWNESS OF OUR LEGAL
PROCEDURES. AFRICANS CANNOT BELIEVE THAT IF U.S.
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EXECUTIVE WANTS TO DO SOMETHING, IT CANNOT MERELY DO
IT. IDEA OF ANY SORT OF SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATING FORUM IS
APPEALING, BUT IS BUILT ON PREMISE THAT QADHAFI WANTS TO
NEGOTIATE. FROM HERE, TLHIS LOOKS DOUBTFUL. BRADFORD

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